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DEVELOPMENTS IN COLLECTIVIZATION, MECHANIZATION, AND  
POLITICAL CONTROL OF BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE

Comment. The following report consists of data on Bulgarian progress in the collectivization and mechanization of agriculture, and a discussion of the political control of agriculture by Todor Zhivkov, secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. It may be noted that Zhivkov makes special mention of private farmers, in a tone friendlier than that normally used by the Bulgarian press. This, coupled with his references to opposition to collectivization, suggests that the collectivization program may not have been too successful and that greater production from private farmers is being sought.

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### Collectivization Progress

In an article in Planovo Stopanstvo, Todor Zhivkov stated that over 52 percent of the farms and 51.35 percent of the arable land of Bulgaria are under TKZS (Trudovo kooperativno semedelsko stopanstvo, cooperative labor farms), and that there are 2,738 TKZS in Bulgaria. (1) St. Todorov, writing in Gladezh, cited figures of 53, about 50, and 2,737, respectively. (2)

Zhivkov gave the following additional data on TKZS:

"Most farms in grain areas have joined TKZS. In General Toshevo Okoliya, 87.2 percent of all farms have joined TKZS; in Nikopol Okoliya, 80.1; in Lom Okoliya, 79.5; and in Chirpan Okoliya, 78.5.

"During 1951, TKZS produced 20.6 percent more wheat than private farms, 20 percent more corn, and 25 percent more cotton. TKZS in Staru Zagora Okrug produced an average of 230 kilograms of wheat per decare in 1951.

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"During 1951, over 70 percent of the state grain deliveries were made by the socialist sector of agriculture, i. e., TKZS, MTS (machine tractor stations), and DZS (state farms). TKZS alone accounted for 60 percent of these deliveries.

"During the last 6 months, the number of women brigade workers in TKZS increased from 180 to 1,104; of women zveno (group) leaders, from 4,000 to 20,000; and of female members of TKZS administrations, from 712 to 2,464."(1)

Mechanization of Agriculture

Discussing the mechanization of agriculture, Zhivkov stated that in 1951 machines performed 34 7 percent of all field work in Bulgaria (55 percent in TKZS).

He revealed that at present there are 150 MTS and 103 DZS in Bulgaria. He further reported that, during 1951, 9,500 fifteen-horsepower tractors and 550 Soviet-made combines were in use on Bulgarian fields; in 1952, 12,000 tractors and over 1,000 combines.(1) Todorov in the MLadezh article, however, stated that at present there are 140 MTS with 12,000 tractors and over 1,200 combines, and more than 100 DZS.(2) A Rabotnichesko Delo article of 1 August reported that 775 combines, 497 tractors, 423 threshers, and other machinery have been received from the USSR [in 1952].(3)

The Todorov article revealed that the Five-Year Plan for the mechanization of agriculture and for farmers to join TKZS had been fulfilled in less than 4 years.(2) The plan for 1952, according to Zhivkov, calls for a 35-percent increase in the mechanization of agriculture [over 1951].(1)

Political Control of Agriculture

Zhivkov discussed the organizations for political control of agriculture and the resistance to collectivization as follows:

"The Bulgarian Communist Party and the government have decreed the creation of a political administration (politicheskoe upravlenie) within the Ministry of Agriculture, and of a political section (politotdel, politicheskii otdel) in each MTS, and the appointment of a deputy director of the political unit (dluzhnostna zamestnik-direktor po politicheska chast) in each DZS.

"While strengthening TKZS, the party and the government do not forget private farmers. They provide the farmers with high-quality seeds, artificial fertilizer, machines, credits, and grants in order that they may increase their production and improve their material and cultural well-being. The party looks after both private working farmers and TKZS members and endeavors to create a friendly cooperation between cooperative farmers and private farmers.

"Socialist transformation of agriculture is not proceeding smoothly because of the hostile activity of kulak and other elements. For example, last spring the enemies of cooperative farming tried to break up TKZS openly in some villages. However, they failed completely and were exposed by TKZS members themselves. These exposed enemies of medium and poor farmers then changed their tactics and tried to break up TKZS from within by spreading false rumors and slanders with the intention of decreasing the enthusiasm of TKZS members.

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"Difficulties in transforming agriculture according to the socialist pattern have also arisen because of the inexperience of local party and administrative groups who tried to create TKZS by force rather than on a voluntary basis. The double personality of farmers who vacillate between the cooperative movement and private farming causes enemies of cooperative farming to exploit their indecision and thus hinder collectivization."(1)

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1. Sofia, Planovo Stopanstvo, Jul - Aug 52
2. Sofia, Mladezh, Aug 52
3. Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 1 Aug 52

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